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BLANCHARD SPRINGS CAVERNS

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1992



in the
SYLAMORE DISTRICT
OZARK NATIONAL FOREST
ARKANSAS

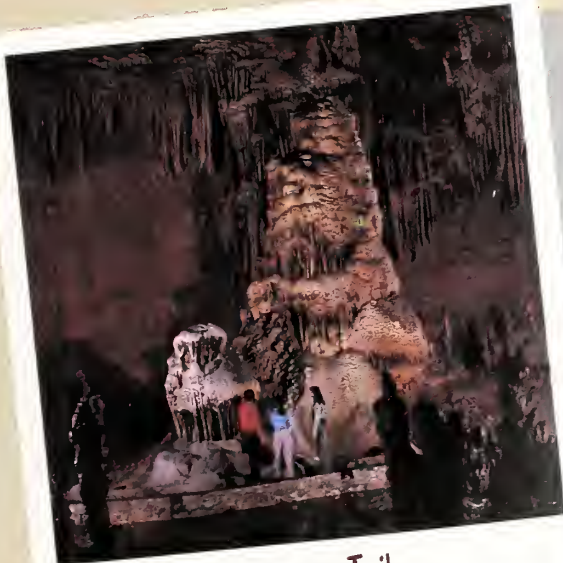
BLANCHARD SPRINGS CAVERNS

...truly awesome

- See one of the most spectacular and carefully developed caves anywhere.
- Enter a “living” cave where glistening speleothems, like stalactites, stalagmites, columns, and flowstone, are yet changing. These crystalline formations are the result of minerals deposited by dripping water.
- Stroll through large, beautifully lighted rooms with paved trails for comfortable walking.
- An exhibit hall featuring “Life in the Dark” and an excellent movie, “The Amazing World Below,” introduces your underground visit. Both are free.



Discovery Trail



Dripstone Trail

Two tours open in the summer: the **Dripstone Trail** winds through the magnificently decorated upper level; the longer, more strenuous **Discovery Trail** explores lower reaches of the caverns.

The **Dripstone Trail** remains open all year except Mondays and Tuesdays, and some Federal holidays, from November through March.

The **Discovery Trail** is open only during the summer. A limited number of tours are available May and September.

Informative Forest Service interpreters guide tours, each limited to about 30 people.

Tours begin at the visitor center, where the Ozark Interpretive Association sells books, maps, and other educational materials.

Dripstone Trail—Open year around, 5 days a week in winter.

Discovery Trail—Daily tours only in the summer.

Plan Your Caverns Tour

RATES—Adults—\$7, Children (ages 6 to 15)—\$3.50, under 6—free. Half-price discounts are available for those age 62 and over, and for disabled people (Rates effective until December 1992).

GROUPS—of 10 or more people (over 6 years old) can get a half-price discount with reservations.

RESERVATIONS—must be made at least 1 day in advance and are recommended during the summer, for groups, and when you are travelling on a tight schedule. **Call (501) 757-2211, or write to USDA Forest Service, P.O. Box 1279, Mountain View, AR 72560.**

CAVE WEATHER—is constant with a year-around temperature of 58°F. and nearly 100-percent relative humidity. Bring a lightweight jacket. The paved trails tend to be wet, so you should wear nonslip, low-heeled shoes.

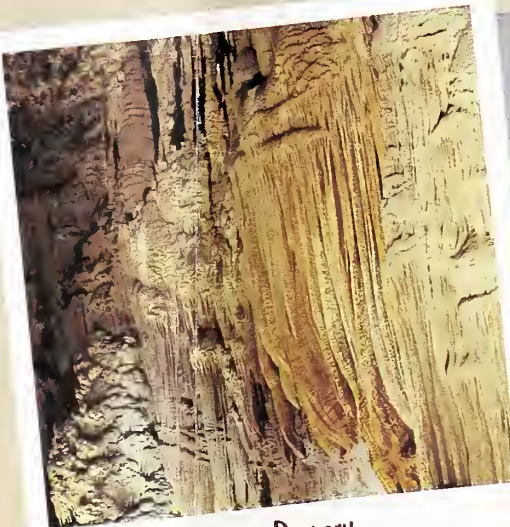
PETS—except those trained for people who are disabled, are not allowed in the visitor center or caverns. There are no kennels. Pets are welcome in the recreation areas, outside the swimming beach, as long as they are leashed.

DRIPSTONE TRAIL

This trail passes through two huge rooms filled with an incredible abundance of crystalline speleothems: sparkling flowstone, towering columns, delicate stalactites.

The shorter, easier trail takes you 0.4 mile one-way in summer, 0.7 mile round-trip the rest of the year.

All stairs can be avoided, making trails accessible to wheelchairs and baby strollers. However, inclines are steep. Strong assistants are needed to control wheelchairs.



Cave Drapery



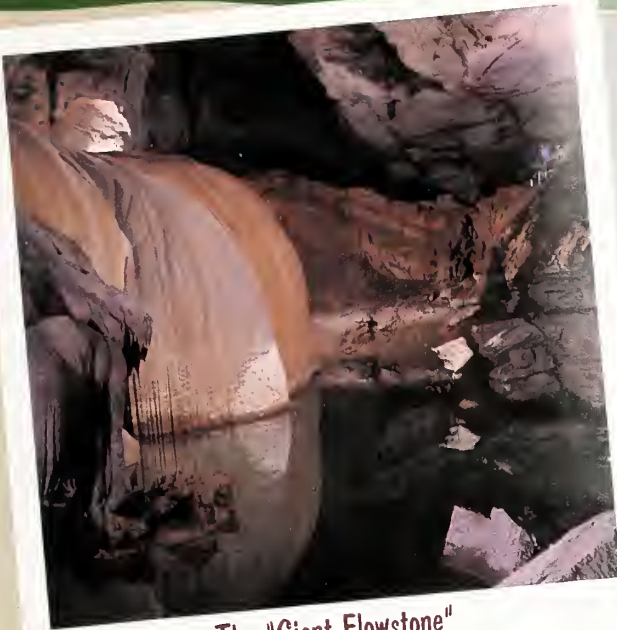
Flowstone

DISCOVERY TRAIL

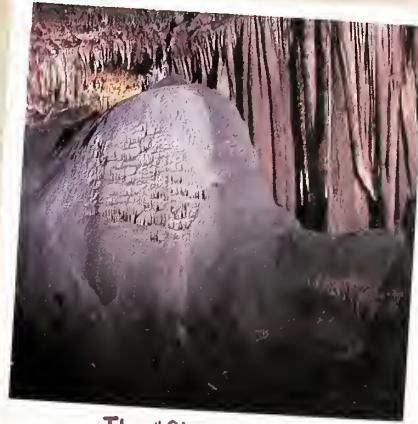
This trail follows the path of the first explorers through water-carved passages, under the Natural Entrance, and along the cave stream.

The longer, more strenuous tour is 1.2 miles long, with nearly 700 stairsteps. Do not take this trail if you have walking, heart, or breathing difficulties.

The Discovery Trail is open from Memorial weekend through Labor Day.



The "Giant Flowstone"



The "Ghost Room"

ACCESSIBILITY

All facilities at the visitor center are fully accessible.

Blanchard Recreation Area restrooms and bathhouse are fully accessible.

The Dripstone Trail is accessible to wheelchairs, but strong assistants are needed to provide control on steep ramps. You must provide your own wheelchair.



Everyone is Welcome



Visitor Information Center



SYLAMORE RANGER DISTRICT OZARK NATIONAL FOREST

In the Sylamore District, within the heart of the Ozarks, you can gaze at picturesque rock bluffs, swim in crystal clear streams, and hike wooded hillsides. On the White and the Buffalo Rivers bordering the district to the east and the west, you can enjoy fine float fishing and canoeing.

Spring wildflowers, autumn foliage, summer greenness, and vast winter views add beauty to every season. The abundant wildlife tends to be secretive, but you may spot a deer, a brilliant butterfly, or a brightly-colored lizard. Come and enjoy your national forest. Camp, hike, fish, swim, or enjoy the forest beauty from the comfort of your car on the Sylamore Scenic Byway.



Mirror Lake



Nature Walks

BLANCHARD SPRINGS RECREATION AREA



CAMPING

Both Gunner Pool and Blanchard campgrounds stretch along the lovely North Sylamore Creek. Campsites are shady and private, but have no hook-ups. Camping is on a self-registration system. After you have selected a campsite, you must return to the entrance of the campground and register.

Blanchard

This campground has 32 sites; the fee is \$8. It is fully equipped with flush toilets, hot showers, and has paved roads.

To give more people a chance to camp there, the stay at Blanchard is limited to 3 consecutive nights.

Reservations: From May 1 through September 15, for an additional fee, you can reserve one of 10 campsites by calling (800) 283-CAMP.

Gunner Pool

This campground has 27 sites; the fee is \$5. Access is via a steep, winding, dirt road,



Dogwood Berries



Blanchard Campground

not recommended for large recreational vehicles. Chemical toilets and drinking water are provided. Many campsites are located beside the creek.

Campers can stay up to 14 consecutive days. Reservations are not available for Gunner Pool campsites.

HIKING

Discover the beauty and solitude of the Ozark National Forest by walking the North Sylamore Creek Hiking Trail. The trail begins near Allison and follows the creek for 15 miles to Barkshed. With trailheads also at Blanchard and Gunner Pool, it's easy to enjoy the trail, even for just an hour or two.



North Sylamore Creek



Panoramic Views



Shelter Cave



Blanchard Springs

RECREATION

The Blanchard Springs Recreation Area offers a rich outdoor experience. Stroll the paved trail to where Blanchard Springs gushes as a waterfall from the hillside. Picnic under the pines near the massive Sandfield Bluff. Step into the cool Shelter Cave carved by the erosive force of water. Swim in the clear waters of North Sylamore Creek. Hike into the Ozark woods for an hour or a weekend. Try your luck catching the rainbow trout from Mirror Lake.

The Blanchard Campground is one of the most desirable in the nation. During the summer you have to come early or make a reservation to get a campsite.

Crafts & Music Abound

In Mountain View

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Come find out why Mountain View is called the **Folk Music Capital of the World**. Enjoy music at the court square or at one of the music shows. Browse in the antique and craft shops. Experience the Ozark Folk Center State Park where Ozark heritage is shared through craft demonstrations and musicals. For more information write to the Mountain View Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 133, Mountain View, AR 72560.

For Sylamore Ranger District information or cave tour reservations contact:
USDA Forest Service
P.O. Box 1279
Mountain View, AR 72560
Telephone (501) 757-2211

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